

1247-0822-0V PCT



#14 C/BM
5/29/02

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE APPLICATION OF

:

PIERRE JEANVOINE ET AL

: EXAMINER: S. VINCENT

SERIAL NO: 09/381,631

:

FILED: MARCH 1, 2000

: GROUP ART UNIT: 1731

CPA FILED: HERewith

:

FOR: METHOD AND DEVICE FOR MELTING AND REFINING MATERIALS
CAPABLE OF BEING VITRIFIED

AMENDMENT

ASSISTANT COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20231

RECEIVED
MAY 28 2002
TC 1700

SIR:

Responsive to the Final Office Action dated January 31, 2002, a CPA being filed herewith, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the above-identified application in view of the following amendment and remarks.

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend Claims 38 and 57 as follows:

38. (Amended) Process comprising supplying all or part of the thermal energy necessary for melting vitrifiable materials by injecting a combustible mixture comprising at least one fuel and at least one oxidizer gas, or gaseous products resulting from combustion of the combustible mixture, below the level of the mass of said vitrifiable materials, and melting said vitrifiable materials, wherein said vitrifiable materials comprise liquid or solid